1. In the space below, describe the stasis at the beginning of Split Second. In other words, “Where are we?” “When is it (time, day, and year)?” “Who are the people involved?” “What is the dramatic situation in which the characters find themselves as the play unfolds?”

The setting of the play happened to be set in Manhattan, New York. It can be assumed that is was during the late 20th c.e and started on July 4th and two days after. The cast is Val the police officer, William the perp that got shot, Alea Val's wife, Rusty Val's Father, Charlie Val's coworker, and Parker the police chief. The dramatic situation in the play would be when Val shoots William who is unarmed and covers it up.

2. What is the intrusion that causes the stasis to be broken and the dramatic action to develop, often at an increasingly rapid pace, to the end of the play? Be careful when citing the intrusion, it may not be where you initially think it is.

The intrusion in this play is the first time Val talks to Rusty, he lies and his dad can see right through him, putting pressure on him and intensifying the guilt.

3. Why do the events of the play take place at this time and place? In other words, what is the unique factor which is out of the ordinary that causes a turn of events to take place?

It occurs on July 4th because even though this is the day to celebrate freedom, someone’s was taken away, this is the day that Val chooses to pull a trigger at an unarmed white man

4. State the dramatic questions that must be answered by the end of the play? (Ordinarily, the dramatic question shares a close connection with the intrusion.)

The dramatic question is "Will Val tell the truth to the police or continue to lie?".

5. Use Val to answer the questions concerning character. Ball says, a character is revealed by what he/she does, that is, dramatic actions that are taken. Examine what Val wants (NOTE: In Split Second the wants of Val are in flux and he is being swayed by his father, his wife, his friend, and his colleague at work. His wants seem to change as the play progresses). The wants of a character often encounter obstacles that get in the way of achieving those wants. Ball says there are 4 kinds of obstacles that frustrate the wants of a character. They are: a. Me against myself, b. Me against another individual, c. Me against society (that is law, social norms, etc.) and, d. Me against fate, the universe, natural forces, God or the gods. In answering these questions be sure to point to the particular obstacles that the character encounters.

Val against society occurs because it is the degradation and oppression that society inflicts on him that causes him to snap. Then there is Val against Val which is apparent in his guilt for his actions. Val against white men, as shown that he struggles to accept the role that white men put him in, which is why he lashed out at William for calling him a nigger. Lastly there is Val against fate, he knows that if he lies that it will eat him up in the end but he still does it.

6. The most important information in most plays takes place during theatrical moments. Identify the most theatrical moments in Split Second.

The most theatrical moment in the play is when Val pulls the trigger on William and then proceeds to cover it up.

7. Provide at least three examples of images in Split Second. How does the title of the play help us understand the images in the play? (Remember Ball says that, “An image is the use of something we know that tells us something we don’t know.” He goes on to say that images invoke and expand, rather than define and limit.”)

The first image is the power play between Val and the perp, because even though he has a gun, Val is still seen as inferior due to his race. The second image would be that Will is killed on Independence Day, a day that celebrates freedom, yet his was taken away, so easily just like blacks. Another image would be Val drinking out of an uncovered beer, showing he has given up on being straight laced, trying to find ways to punish himself.

8. Ordinarily, there are many themes in most plays. List the themes in Split Second.

Some of the themes in Split Second are of violence, oppression, power play, diversity, racism, impulse, dishonesty and selfishness.

9. Most American plays have something to do with family and/or family relationships. What does family have to do with the dramatic action in Split Second?

Family is the cause for the internal turmoil to deepen within Val, his dad increases the guilt while his wife validates his actions, he is trapped between two evils